The VIRGINIA GAZETTE.

The Freedom of the Preſs is one of the great Bulwarks of Liberty, and can never be reſtrained but by deſpotic Governments.

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YORK TOWN, *April* 24.

The following is taken from a Philadelphia News Paper, of April 17, publiſhed by James Robertſon.

By a ſhip of war, which arrived here on Tueſday laſt, in 28 days from England, with diſpatches for his Excellency the Commander in Chief, we have been favoured with the lateſt London papers, from which we have extracted the following intelligence.

LONDON, *February* 19.

THE Houſe of Commons went into a committee on Tueſday night after the debate was over, upon the propoſals offered by Lord North relative to America; and as ſoon as the chairman left the chair, a motion was made,

"That leave be given to bring in a bill, to enable his Majeſty to appoint Commiſſioners to treat, conſent, and agree on the means of quieting the diſorders now ſubſiſting in certain of the colonies, plantations, and provinces of America." Alſo,

"A bill for declaring the intentions of the Parliament of Great Britain, concerning the exerciſe of the right of impoſing taxes on the colonies, plantations and provinces of America."

The queſtion was then put and agreed, and the bills ordered to be brought in by Lord North, the Attorney and Solicitor General, Sir Grey Cooper, &c.

Lord NORTH'S SPEECH, *on his* CONCILIATORY MOTION, *on Tueſday laſt, from a* MEMBER.

THE propoſition which I have the honour to offer to this Houſe is for two acts of Parliament. I will now open the contents of them full, and will then refer them to a committee of the whole houſe. At the opening of the preſent ſeſſion, on the firſt day, during the debate on the addreſs to his Majeſty, I told the Houſe, that in my opinion terms might be made with the colonies, ſhort of unconditional ſubmiſſion, and that the time of making them was the moment of victory. I ſaid this thinking that the victory gained by Sir William Howe was more deciſive than it really was, and ignorant at the time of the diſaſter which had fallen on General Burgoyne's army. When the news of that melancholy event arrived, I was ſtruck, that the time of propoſed terms was paſt, and that the firſt point to be done was the raiſing new levies and a new force. The conſequences of that misfortune were unknown; the general idea was that the victorious army would march to Philadelphia, and that, flushed with victory a general engagement might have hapened, which would have been deciſive. I thought it neceſſary therefore to wait till the end of the campaign, till I had a knowledge of all the events of it; it is ended, and nothing deciſive has happened. The forces of Waſhington are not ſufficient to make him quit his defenſive plan. Our army is great, our navy great, our men in health, in ſpirits, and well ſupplied; but the reſiſtance of America is greater, and the war has laſted longer than was at firſt apprehended, much longer than any friend to this country could wiſh, and I do not think it will end in the next campaign. I think that our forces are ſufficient to compell America to accept of reaſonable terms; but I make my propoſition on this ground, that it is better to offer a conceſſion to the colonies now, which may end the conteſt within the year, than to continue the war for three or four years longer, though with the aſſurance of compleat conqueſt. In the preſent ſituation of affairs only three propoſitions can be made.

I. To ſtrengthen our force, and continue the war upon the preſent plan.

II. To recall the troops from America. And

III. To offer terms of conciliation to her.

The firſt propoſition is attended with too great an expence of men and money; an expence which conqueſt itſelf would not balance. The ſecond is, to ſubſcribe to the independency of America. The third is that which appears to me to be the beſt and wiſeſt. I never thought of propoſing an ultimatum to America. In a conteſt which contains ſo many nice and difficult points, ſo many matters which demand future remedies, without any perſon preſent on the part of the colonies, that would be impoſſible and impracticable. Whatever you give, unleſs it is firſt ſettled and agreed on by perſons authoriſed by the colonies, might be given in vain. The danger alſo of publiſhing ſuch an ultimatum would be great; every word would be critically examined by jealous powers, and receive an invidious and falſe conſtruction, or unjuſt comment. Every propoſition would be blaſted before it reached America. If it got there entire, the colonies, by refuſing one condition, would deſtroy all. I wiſh therefore for an open conference with America. I think that there is ſo much affection ſtill left in that country towards this, that barely to enter on a diſcuſſion is more than half the buſineſs. My plan is to open ſuch a diſcuſſion. I ſhall therefore propoſe, 1ſt. an act of Parliament to veſt Commiſſioners with very ample powers for this purpoſe. The powers muſt be ample; limited powers can produce no good; they muſt be ample, as to the perſons with whom they treat, and as to the objects concerning which they treat. As to the perſons, the preſent Commiſſioners have great powers; but the preſent act muſt be full and clear, containing no doubt, no doubt whether they ſhall treat with the Congreſs, with rebels, with perſons actually in arms, whether with a General Aſſembly of all the colonies, or with the Aſſembly of a particular colony. The only rule to guide the Commiſſioners muſt be, whether the perſons with whom they treat are authoriſed ſo to do. I ſhall therefore propoſe that ſuch perſons ſhall be deſcribed in the moſt general words. There ſhould be no etiquette; the time for that is paſt. As to the objects of the treaty, they ſhould be as generally deſcribed. The Commiſſioners ſhould be enabled to treat on all grievances exiſting, or ſuppoſed to exiſt, in the laws of the colonies, or in the ſtatutes of this realm, on all matters, proviſions, or things, and on all aids and future contributions to be furniſhed by the colonies; for I have reaſon to think, from the declarations of the colonies, that they are willing to contribute their ſhare to the public ſupport. This will make the tie ſtronger between us. Thoſe who derive an advantage from a ſtate ought to contribute to the burdens of it. The execution of theſe powers muſt receive the ſubſequent ſanction of Parliament; but there are ſome points in which the opinion of the Commiſſioners muſt prevail immediately, as the granting of general and particular pardons, or a ceſſation of hoſtilities. They muſt have alſo another immediate power more great and extenſive, founded on the example of an act paſſed in the reign of Charles II. the power of ſuſpending acts of Parliament. The colonies have demanded to be put in the ſituation they were in 1763. I doubt they will never be placed exactly in the ſame ſituation, but perhaps they may be placed in one not much leſs advantageous. The ſtatutes ſince that year are many; many of them are beneficial to the colonies; many neceſſary for their dependence as to trade; and many ought to be repealed; all, perhaps, ſhould be reviſed. I would give the Commiſſioners full power to take them all into their conſideration, and to ſuſpend ſuch as ſhould be repealed. There is another proviſion, which is, perhaps, a matter of convenience only; they ſhould have a power of appointing Governors in thoſe colonies where his Majeſty was uſed to appoint them. I ſhall propoſe to limit the duration of this act to June 1, 1779. If I was to ſtop here, the plan would certainly be defective; defective in not offering an inducement to the colonies to treat with us. They muſt give up their claim of independency; but to induce them to do this, they muſt be certain of ſomething fixed and decided. If it is neceſſary to hold out an inducement to all the colonies collectively, it is equally neceſſary to hold it out to each colony in particular. Though ſome may not renounce their independency, ſome may; and it will not be ſaid, that if the Commiſſioners cannot treat with all, they ſhall not treat with any. The colonies muſt have ſome other inducement than mere hopes. Before the war broke out, I offered a conciliatory propoſition to America; I offered it before the ſword was drawn. The ground upon which I made it was, that it was juſt the colonies ſhould contribute to the ſupport of government, but that their taxation by Parliament occaſioned jealouſies in them of our attempting to throw the burden off our own ſhoulders upon them, and of endangering the ſecurity of their Aſſemblies. This propoſition was unfortunate; it was rendered ſuſpicious by the ſuppoſition of a variety of caſes; it was miſrepreſented or miſunderſtood. I thought it neceſſary to ſhew them that we were not fighting for taxation; for I never thought that ſuch taxation would be very beneficial to us. The ſtamp was the beſt duty that could be laid, and even that would not have produced much, ſo great was the averſion to it. My intent of making this propoſition was to prevent the war, by preſerving our rights, and freeing them from their jealouſies. In many of the Aſſemblies there was an inclination to have accepted it, but they referred it to the Congreſs. The Congreſs treated it as unreaſonable and inſidious, and rejected it. War began, and my intention was, from the beginning, at the moment of victory to have propoſed the ſame propoſition, in terms obviating all the miſrepreſentations and miſunderſtandings concerning it. The principal objections to it were,

I. That the colonies had a ſole right of granting their own money. My propoſition looked to a permanent revenue to be granted by them in the firſt inſtance; my idea was, that they ſhould grant their own money in proportion to our grants, riſing and falling with them.

II. That it was unreaſonable, becauſe the quantity was not aſcertained, but their contribution was afterwards to undergo the reviſal of Parliament. This was not my idea; my intent was, that their proportion ſhould be ſettled, and being ſettled, ſhould always remain the ſame.

III. That it was inſidious, becauſe the Miniſtry intended to get one colony to bid againſt another. I had no ſuch intent. The Congreſs might have ſettled what each colony ſhould offer. I will now hold out to the colonies a ceſſation of the exerciſe of taxation, and I will not ſubject it to any conditions, or to the demand of any ſpecific contribution. My propoſition, therefore, is an act of Parliament, grounded on the jealouſies of the exerciſe of the right of taxation, and on their declarations of their being willing to contribute, to take away this exerciſe abſolutely, truſting to the negociations of our Commiſſioners for gaining contributions the colonies. But I did not mean to make

their grant a *sine qua non*, but will declare, by an act of Parliament, that for the future the Parliament will not tax the colonies for the purpose of raising a revenue, and if on account of commerce, that the money so raised shall be appropriated to the use of the colonies. I propose this as an explicit declaration. It may be said, should not the colonies give up their claim of independency? The renunciation of that claim is implied in the act itself. It may be said also, if you give up taxation, what is there left to fight for? I never thought taxation a sufficient object for the contest, and upon this idea I made my proposition before the war bgun. But I fought for the dependence of America. The Congress claimed independency. The colony of Massachusetts Bay claimed it, and a great outrage was committed on our merchants. The war has cost us more than any revenue which could have been raised from America by Parliament. The contest was for supremacy. But it may be urged, that concessions in time of war, of so public a nature are dangerous. It is the misfortune of this war, involved in so many parliamentary points, to require public steps. The state of our resources is well known. This concession cannot therefore, in this respect, be prejudicial to us. Our army and navy are great; our loss can be repaired; the necessary supplies can be raised; and our customs are not diminished. But why was not concession made before? I am willing that my past conduct should be inspected. I never proposed any tax. When I was unfortunate enough (for I will still use the word, notwithstanding the use made of it) to be placed in my present office, I thought there was a gleam of hope that the colonies would return to their duty. My maxim was to say nothing about America, neither to propose or repeal taxes, neither to advance or recede, but to remain in total silence. But when it was necessary to give the East India company a power of selling their tea in America, I did not think it right to repeal the tax. I however diminished it. A repeal would have been of no service, for America was afraid that the East India company would undersell their smugglers. A monopoly was also urged. They had, in fact, the commodity cheaper than they had it before. If they deemed this a grievance, they were ready to make any thing a grievance. When the war was begun, I thought it necessary to accompany our forces with a pacific commission; and the Commissioners were men of abilities, men of honour, men of a pacific disposition, men trusted by America, who were the most likely to bring about a reconciliation. But this commission produced no effect, because the claims of America were so distant. When the sword was drawn, why did I not make my proposition? I own I thought that the war would soon have ended, and I should have made it, had America been reduced to unconditional submission; but misfortunes, misconduct, or a greater natural force in America than was expected, and which no man could foresee, have carried on the war to its present length. I will never own that administration has deceived the public, in wanting to delude them into measures which they thought were ineffectual. The information laid before Parliament was full; Parliament had every paper necessary to found its judgment; no papers were retained but those only, which, for the sake of the writers, would have been dangerous to have exposed. But the deception is, that administration said that, in their opinion, the war would soon be at an end. Our army and navy were great; Sir W. Howe's army was generally superior to Washington's; and General Burgoyne's army, when at Fort Edward, was stronger than the enemy's force. Parliament knew the force sent out as well as the Minister. Ministry promised that the army should be supplied. The army has been supplied. Ministry promised to raise the money necessary for the services. The money has been raised. The public, therefore, has been deceived by the event. It may be asked, what is likely to be the effect of this proposition? The real effect I cannot say, but it is a right thing to endeavour to bring about a peace. I do not see that any other concession can be made, without admitting the complete independency of America. But what would be the effect of that independency? I cannot see into futurity; but it is big with many possible evils. Independency, with a cordial love between us, is one thing; with an union with our enemies, fatal. From their independency a danger arises from a great naval power, a danger also to our other possessions. I do not think that we should yield to it till our resources are much lowered. Independency is not beneficial to America. She cannot be so happy, so easy, cannot have such personal liberty, as if she remains dependent on us. If independent, she must be loaded with heavy burthens, more heavy than she had; her personal liberty will not be so great. Her present situation, as compared with ours, is ten times more grievous. Her farmers are ruined. When all the necessaries of life sell at prices the most high, they are compelled to sell the produce of their land at a small price in comparison. I was assured that at Albany tea, a necessary article there, sold at sixteen dollars per pound, and salt at thirty dollars per bushel. Thinking that men in this situation will be inclined to peace upon just and reasonable terms, I move the House for leave to bring in two bills, &c. &c.

DRAUGHT *of a* BILL *for declaring the intentions of the Parliament of Great Britain, concerning the exercise of the right of imposing taxes within his Majesty's colonies, provinces, and plantations in North America,*

WHEREAS the exercise of the right of taxation by the Parliament of Great Britain, for the purpose of raising a revenue in his Majesty's colonies, provinces, and plantations in North America, has been found by experience to occasion great uneasinesses and disorders, and has by sundry misrepresentations been made the means of misleading many of his Majesty's faithful subjects, who yet acknowledge the justice of contributing to the common defence of the empire, provided such contributions should be raised under the authority of the General Court, or General Assembly, of each respective colony, province, or plantation: *And whereas*, in order as well as to remove the said uneasinesses, and to quiet the minds of his Majesty's subjects, who may be disposed to return to their allegiance, as to restore the peace and welfare of all his Majesty's dominions. It is expedient to declare, that the King and Parliament of Great Britain will not impose any duty, tax or assessment, for the purpose of raising a revenue within any of the said colonies, provinces, or plantations:

May it please your Majesty, that it may be declared and enacted, and it is hereby declared and enacted, &c. That from and after the passing of this act, the King and Parliament of Great Britain will not impose any duty, tax, or assessment whatsoever, payable within any of his Majesty's colonies, provinces, and plantations in North America, except only such duties as it may be expedient to impose for the regulation of commerce, the nett produce of such duties to be always paid and applied to, and for the use of the colony, province, or plantation, in which the same shall be respectively levied, in such manner as other duties collected by the authority of the respective General Courts, or General Assemblies, of such colonies, provinces, or plantations, are ordinarily paid and applied.

DRAUGHT *of a* BILL *to enable his Majesty to appoint* COMMISSIONERS *with sufficient powers to treat, consult, and agree upon means of quieting the disorders now subsisting in certain of the colonies, plantations, and provinces of North America.*

FOR the quieting and extinguishing of divers jealousies and misapprehensions of danger to their liberties and legal rights, which have misled many of his Majesty's subjects in the colonies, provinces, and plantations of New Hampshire, Massachusett's Bay, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, the three lower counties of Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Corolina, and Georgia, and for a fuller manifestation of the just and gracious purposes of his Majesty and his Parliament, to maintain and secure all his subjects in a clear and perfect enjoyment of such liberties and rights; *Be it enacted, &c.* that persons to be appointed by his Majesty, under the great seal of Great Britain, or any of them, shall by force of this act, have full power, commission, and authority to treat, consult, and agree, with such body or bodies, political and corporate, or with such Assembly, or Assemblies of men, or with such person, or persons, as in their wisdom and discretion they shall think meet, of and concerning any grievancies, or complaints of grievances, existing, or supposed to exist, in the government of any of the said colonies, provinces, or plantations respectively, or in the laws and statutes of this realm respecting the same, and of or concerning any aid or contribution to be furnished, by all or any of the colonies, provinces, or plantations respectively, for the common defence of this realm, and the dominions thereunto belonging and of and concerning such other regulations, provisions, matters and things, as upon mature deliberation of the said commissioners, or any of them, shall be thought necessary or convenient for the honour of his Majesty, and the common good of all his subjects.

Provided also, and be it further enacted and declared, that no regulation, provision, matter or thing, so proposed, treated, consulted, or agreed, shall have any other force or effect, or be carried further into execution, than is hereinafter mentioned and provided, until the same shall have been approved by Parliament.

Provided also, and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that in order to facilitate the good purposes of this act, it shall and may be lawful for the said commissioners, or any of them, from time to time, as they shall judge it convenient, to order and proclaim a cessation of hostilities on the part of his Majesty's troops, in any of the said colonies, or plantations, or any part thereof, for any time, and under any conditions or restrictions, which they shall think convenient, and such order and proclamation to revoke and annul in the same manner and form, according to their discretion.

And be it further enacted, that it shall be lawful for the said commissioners, or any of them, by proclamation under their respective hands and seals, from time to time, to suspend the operation and effects of a certain act of Parliament, made and passed in the 16th year of the reign of his present Majesty, for prohibiting all trade and intercourse with certain colonies and plantations therein named, and for the other purposes therein also mentioned, or any of the provisions or restrictions therein contained, for such convenient time as the said commissioners shall think proper, specifying in such proclamation at what times or places respectively, and with what exceptions and restrictions, the said suspension shall take effect, and the said suspension and proclamation in the same manner and form to annul and revoke, according to their discretion.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the said commissioners, or any of them, may, and they are hereby authorised and empowered to suspend, in such places, and for such times, as they shall think fit, during the continuance of this act, the operation and effects of all or any of the act or acts of Parliament, which have passed since the 10th day of *February*, 1763, and which relate to any of his Majesty's said colonies, provinces, or plantations in North America, so far as the same does relate to them, or the operation and effect of any clause, or any provision or matter therein contained, so far as such clauses, provisions or matters, relate to any of the said colonies, provinces, or plantations.

And it is hereby enacted by the authority aforesaid, that it shall and may be lawful to and for the said commissioners, or any of them, and they are hereby authorised and empowered to grant a pardon, or pardons, to any number or description of persons within the said colonies, provinces, or plantations.

And that no lett or hindrances may happen from the vacancy of the office of Governor and Commander in Chief in any of the said colonies, provinces, or plantations respectively, or from the absence of such officer from his Government, *Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, that the said commissioners, or any of them, shall have full power and authority in any of the said colonies, provinces, or plantations respectively, wherein his Majesty hath usually

heretofore nominated and appointed a Governor, to nominate and appoint, by any inſtrument under their hands and ſeals, a proper perſon to be the Governor and Commander in Chief in and for any ſuch colony, province, or plantation, to have, hold, and exerciſe, during his Majeſty's pleaſure, the ſaid office of Governor and Commander in Chief in and for ſuch colony or plantation reſpectively, with all ſuch powers and authorities as any Governor of ſuch province heretofore appointed by his Majeſty might or could have exerciſed, in as full and complete manner and form, as if ſuch Governor and Commander in Chief had been nominated and appointed by his Majeſty's letters patent or commiſſion, and for that purpoſe, if need be, to revoke, annul, and make void any commiſſion or letters patent heretofore granted, for appointing any ſuch Governor and Commander in Chief.

And be it further enacted, that this act ſhall continue to be in force until the firſt day of *June* which ſhall be in the year 1779.

Publiſhed by order of the Commander in Chief.

Philadelphia, April 14, 1778. ROBERT MACKENZIE, Sec'ry.

IN CONGRESS, APRIL 22, 1778.

THE Committee to whom was referred the General's letter of the 18th, containing a certain printed paper ſent from Philadelphia, purporting to be the draught of a bill for declaring the *intentions* of the Parliament of Great Britain as to the *exerciſe* of what they are pleaſed to term their *right* of impoſing taxes within theſe United States, and alſo the draught of a bill to enable the King of Great Britain to appoint Commiſſioners, with powers to treat, conſult, and agree upon the means of quieting certain diſorders within the ſaid States, beg leave to obſerve,

That the ſaid paper being induſtriouſly circulated by the emiſſaries of the enemy, in a partial and ſecret manner, the ſame ought to be forthwith printed for the public information.

The Committee cannot aſcertain whether the contents of the ſaid paper have been framed in Philadelphia or in Great Britain, much leſs whether the ſame are really and truly intended to be brought into the Parliament of that kingdom, or whether the ſaid Parliament will conſer thereon the uſual ſolemnities of their laws, but are inclined to believe this will happen, for the following reaſons.

1. Becauſe their General hath made divers feeble efforts to ſet on foot ſome kind of treaty during the laſt winter, though, either from a miſtaken idea of his own dignity and importance, the want of information, or ſome other cauſe, he hath not made application to thoſe who are inveſted with a proper authority.

2. Becauſe they ſuppoſe that the fallacious idea of a ceſſation of hoſtilities will render theſe States remiſs in their preparations for war.

3. Becauſe believing the Americans wearied with war, they ſuppoſe we will accede to their terms for the ſake of peace.

4. Becauſe they ſuppoſe that our negociations may be ſubject to a like corrupt influence with their debates.

5. Becauſe they expect from this ſtep the ſame effects they did from what one of their miniſters thought proper to call his *conciliatory motion*, viz. that it will prevent foreign powers from giving aid to theſe States; that it will lead their own ſubjects to continue a little longer the preſent war; and that it will detach ſome weak men in America from the cauſe of freedom and virtue.

6. Becauſe their King, from his own ſhewing, hath reaſon to apprehend that his fleets and armies, inſtead of being employed againſt the territories of theſe States, will be neceſſary for the defence of his own dominions. And

7. Becauſe the impracticability of ſubjugating this country being every day more and more manifeſt, it is their intereſt to extricate themſelves from the war upon any terms.

The Committee beg leave farther to obſerve, that upon a ſuppoſition the matters contained in the ſaid paper will really go into the Britiſh ſtatute book, they ſerve to ſhew, in a clear point of view, the weakneſs and wickedneſs of the enemy. THEIR WEAKNESS,

1. Becauſe they formerly declared, not only that they had a right to bind the inhabitants of theſe States in all caſes whatſoever, but alſo that the ſaid inhabitants ſhould *abſolutely* and *unconditionally* ſubmit to the exerciſe of that right. And this ſubmiſſion they have endeavoured to exact by the ſword. Receding from this claim, therefore, under the preſent circumſtances, ſhews their inability to enforce it.

2. Becauſe their Prince hath heretofore rejected the humbleſt petitions of the repreſentatives of America, praying to be conſidered as ſubjects, and protected in the enjoyment of peace, liberty, and ſafety, and hath waged a moſt cruel war againſt them, and employed the ſavages to butcher innocent women and children; but now the ſame Prince pretends to treat with thoſe very repreſentatives, and grant to the *arms* of America what he refuſed to her *prayers*.

3. Becauſe they have uniformly laboured to conquer this Continent, rejecting every idea of accommodation propoſed to them, from a confidence in their own ſtrength. Wherefore it is evident, from the change in their mode of attack, that they have loſt this confidence. And

4. Becauſe the conſtant language, ſpoken not only by their Miniſters, but by the moſt public and authentic acts of the nation, hath been, that it is incompatible with their dignity to treat with the Americans while they have arms in their hands. Notwithſtanding which, an offer is now about to be made for treaty.

The wickedneſs and inſincerity of the enemy appear from the following conſiderations.

1. Either the *bills* now to be paſſed contain a direct or indirect ceſſion of a part of their former claims, or they do not. If they do, then it is acknowledged that they have ſacrificed many brave men in an unjuſt quarrel. If they do not, then they are calculated to deceive America into terms to which neither arguments before the war, nor force ſince, could procure her aſſent.

2. The firſt of theſe *bills* appears, from the title, to be a declaration of the *intentions* of the Britiſh Parliament concerning the exerciſe of *the right of impoſing taxes* within theſe States. Wherefore, ſhould theſe States treat under the ſaid bill, they would indirectly *acknowledge* that right, to obtain which acknowledgment the preſent war hath been avowedly undertaken and proſecuted on the part of Great Britain.

3. Should ſuch pretended right be ſo acquieſced in, then, of conſequence, the ſame might be exerciſed whenever the Britiſh Parliament ſhould find themſelves in a different *temper and diſpoſition*, ſince it muſt depend upon thoſe, and ſuch like contingencies, how far men will act according to their former *intentions*.

4. The ſaid firſt bill, in the body thereof, containeth no new matter, but is preciſely the ſame with the motion before mentioned, and liable to all the objections which lay againſt the ſaid motion, excepting the following particular, viz. that *by the motion* actual taxation was to be ſuſpended ſo long as America ſhould give as much as the ſaid Parliament might think proper; whereas, *by the propoſed bill*, it is to be ſuſpended as long as future Parliaments continue of the ſame mind with the preſent.

5. From the ſecond bill it appears, that the Britiſh King may, if he pleaſes, appoint Commiſſioners to *treat* and *agree* with thoſe, whom they pleaſe, about a variety of things therein mentioned. But ſuch treaties and agreements ar to be of no validity without the concurrence of the ſaid Parliament, except ſo far as they relate to the *ſuſpenſion* of hoſtilities, and of certain of their acts, the granting of pardons, and the appointing Governors to theſe ſovereign, free, and independent States. Wherefore, the ſaid Parliament have reſerved to themſelves, in *expreſs words*, the power of ſetting aſide any ſuch treaty, and taking the advantage of any circumſtances which may ariſe to ſubject this continent to their uſurpations.

6. The ſaid bill, by holding forth a tender of pardon, implies a criminality in our juſtifiable reſiſtance, and conſequently to treat under it would be an implied acknowledgment that the inhabitants of theſe States were, what Britain hath declared them to be, *rebels*.

7. The inhabitants of theſe States being claimed by them as ſubjects, they may infer, from the nature of the negociation now pretended to be ſet on foot, that the ſaid inhabitants would of right be afterwards bound by ſuch laws as they ſhould make. Wherefore, any agreement entered into on ſuch negociation might at any future time be repealed. And

8. Becauſe the ſaid bill purports, that the Commiſſioners therein mentioned may treat with private individuals; a meaſure highly derogatory to the dignity of national character.

From all which it appears evident to your Committee, that the ſaid bills are intended to operate upon the hopes and fears of the good people of theſe States, ſo as to create diviſions among them, and a defection from the common cauſe, now, by the bleſſing of Divine Providence, drawing near to a ſucceſsful iſſue. That they are the ſequel of that inſidious plan, which, from the days of the ſtamp act down to the preſent time, hath involved this country in contention and bloodſhed. And that, in other caſes ſo in this, although circumſtances may force them at times to recede from their unjuſtifiable claims, there can be no doubt but they will, as heretofore, upon the firſt favourable occaſion, again diſplay that luſt of domination, which hath rent in twain the mighty empire of Britain.

Upon the whole matter, the Committee beg leave to report it, as their opinion, that as the Americans united in this arduous conteſt upon principles of common intereſt, for the defence of common rights and privileges, which union hath been cemented by common calamities and by mutual good offices and affection, ſo the great cauſe for which they contend, and in which all mankind are intereſted, muſt derive its ſucceſs from the continuance of that union. Wherefore, any man, or body of men, who ſhould preſume to make any ſeparate or partial convention or agreement with Commiſſioners under the crown of Great Britain, or any of them, ought to be conſidered and treated as open and avowed enemies of theſe United States.

And farther, your Committee beg leave to report it, as their opinion, that theſe United States cannot, with propriety, hold any conference or treaty with *any* Commiſſioners on the part of Great Britain, unleſs they ſhall, as a preliminary thereto, either withdraw their fleets and armies, or elſe, in poſitive and expreſs terms, acknowledge the independence of the ſaid States.

And inaſmuch as it appears to be the deſign of the enemies of theſe States to lull them into a fatal ſecurity, to the end that they may act with a becoming weight and importance, it is the opinion of your Committee, that the ſeveral States be called upon to uſe the moſt ſtrenuous exertions to have their reſpective quotas of continental troops in the field as ſoon as poſſible, and that all the militia of the ſaid States be held in readineſs to act as occaſion may require.

The report being read, and debated by paragraphs,

Reſolved unanimouſly, that Congreſs approve and confirm the ſaid report.

Publiſhed by order of Congreſs,

CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary.

Lord North's conciliatory propoſitions in the Houſe of Commons, on the 20th of February, 1775.

"THAT it is the opinion of this Committee, that when the General Council and Aſſembly, or General Court, of any of his Maj-ſty's provinces or colonies in America, ſhall propoſe to make proviſion, according to the conditions, circumſtance, or ſituation, of ſuch province or colony, for contributing their proportion to the common defence (ſuch proportion to be raiſed under the authority of the General Court or Aſſembly of ſuch province, and diſpoſable by Parliament) and ſhall engage to make proviſion alſo for the ſupport of the civil

government, and the administration of justice, in such province or colony, it will be proper, if such proposal shall be approved by his Majesty and the two Houses of Parliament, and for so long as such provision shall be made accordingly, to declare, in respect of such colony, to lay any duty, tax, or assessment, or to impose any further duty, tax, or assessment, except only such duties as it may be expedient to continue to levy or impose for the regulation of commerce; the nett produce of the duties last mentioned to be carried to the account of such province or colony respectively."

Lord North, in supporting his motion, declared, in plain terms, a revenue from America was what the Ministry contended for, that a very heavy debt had been contracted last year by defending the colonies, which they ought to pay.

The following prophetic sentences, extracted from Mr. BURKE's oration in March 1775, upon his conciliatory propositions, are recommended to the serious perusal and consideration of the author of the forgoing speech.

"CONCILIATION failing, force remains; but force failing, there is "no further hope of conciliation. Power and authority may indeed be bought "by kindness, but they cannot be begged as alms by an impoverished and de- "feated violence."

From the LONDON GAZETTE.

WHITEHALL, DECEMBER 15, 1777.

THIS *afternoon Capt. Craig, of the 47th regiment, arrived from Quebec with the following duplicate of a letter from Lieutenant General* BURGOYNE *to Lord* GERMAINE, *the original of which has not yet been received.*

ALBANY, OCTOBER 20, 1777.

MY LORD,

NO possibility of communication with your Lordship having existed since the beginning of September, at which time my last dispatches were sent away, I have to report to your Lordship the proceedings of the army under my command from that period. A series of hard toil, incessant effort, stubborn action, till disabled in the collateral branches of the army by the total defection of the Indians; the desertion or the timidity of the Canadians and Provincials, some individuals excepted; disappointed in the last hope of any timely co-operation from other armies; the regular troops reduced, by losses from the best parts, to 3,500 fighting men, not 2000 of which were British; only three days provisions, upon short allowance, in store; invested by an army of fixteen thousand men, and no apparent means of retreat remaining; I called into Council all the Generals, Field Officers, and Captains, commanding corps, and by their unanimous concurrence and advice was induced to open a treaty with Major General Gates.

Your Lordship will see by the papers transmitted herewith the disagreeable prospect which attended the first overtures, and when the terms concluded are compared, I trust that the spirit of the councils I have mentioned, which, under such circumstances, dictated instead of submitting, will not be refused a share of credit.

Before I enter upon the detail of these events I think it a duty of justice, my Lord, to take upon myself the measure of having passed the Hudson's river, in order to force a passage to Albany. I did not think myself authorized to call any men into council, when the peremptory tenor of my orders, and the season of the year admitted no alternative.

Provisions for about thirty days having been brought forward, the other necessary stores prepared, and the bridge of boats compleated, the army passed the Hudson's river on the 13th and 14th of September, and encamped on the heights and in the plain of Saratoga, the enemy being then in the neighbourhood of Still Water.

15th. The whole army made a movement forward, and encamped in a good position in a place called Dovegot.

16th. It being found that there were several bridges to repair, that work was begun under cover of strong detachments, and the same opportunity was taken to reconnoitre the country.

17th. The army renewed their march, repaired other bridges, and encamped upon advantageous ground, about four miles from the enemy.

18th. The enemy appeared in considerable force to obstruct the farther repair of bridges, and with a view, as it was conceived, to draw on an action where artillery could not be employed. A small loss was sustained in skirmishing, but the work of the bridge was effected.

19th. The passages of Great Ravin, and other roads towards the enemy, having been reconnoitred, the army advanced in the following order.

Brigadier General Fraser's corps, sustained by Lieutenant Colonel Breyman's corps, made a circuit in order to pass the Ravin commodiously, without quitting the heights, and afterwards to cover the march of the line to the right. These corps moved in three columns, and had the Indians, Canadians, and Provincials, upon their fronts and flanks. The British line, led by me in person, passed the Ravin in a direct line south, and formed in order of battle as fast as they gained the summit, where they waited to give time to Frazer's corps to make the circuit, and to enable the left wing and artillery, which, under the command of Major General Philips, and Major General Reidesel, kept the great road and meadows near the river, in two columns, and had bridges to repair, to be equally ready to proceed. The 47th regiment guarded the batteaux.

The signal guns, which had been previously settled to give notice of all the columns being ready to advance, having been fired between one and two o'clock, the march continued. The scouts and flankers of the column of the British line were soon fired upon from small parties, but with no effect. After about an hour's march, the pickets, which had made the advanced guard of that column, were attacked in force, and obliged to give ground, but they soon rallied, and were sustained.

On the first opening of the wood I formed the troops. A few cannon shot dislodged the enemy at a house from whence the pickets had been attacked; and Brigadier General Frazer's corps had arrived with such precision, in point of time, as to be found on a very advantageous height on the right of the British.

In the mean time the enemy, not acquainted with the combination of the march, had moved in great force out of their intrenchments; with a view of turning the line upon the right, and being checked by the position of Brigadier General Frazer, countermarched, in order to direct their great effort to the left of the British.

From the nature of the country, movements of this nature, however near, may be effected without a possibility of their being discovered.

About three o'clock the action began by a very vigorous attack on the British line, and continued with great obstinacy till after sunset. The enemy being continually supplied with fresh troops, the stress lay upon the 20th, 21st, and 62d regiments, most parts of which were engaged near four hours without intermission; the 9th had been ordered early in the day to form in reserve.

The grenadiers and 24th regiment were some part of the time brought into action, as were part of the light infantry, and all those corps charged with their usual spirit.

The riflemen, and other parts of Brymen's corps, were also of service, but it was not thought adviseable to evacuate the height where Brigadier General Frazer was posted, otherwise than partially and occasionally.

Major General Phillips, upon first hearing the firing, found his way through a difficult part of the wood, to the scene of action, and brought up with him Major Williams, and four pieces of artillery, and from that moment I stood indebted to that gallant and judicious second for incessant and most material services; particularly for restoring the action in a point which was critically pressed by a great superiority of fire, and to which he led up the 20th regiment, at the utmost personal hazard.

Major General Reidesel exerted himself to bring up a part of the left wing, and arrived in time to charge the enemy with regularity and bravery.

Just as the light closed, the enemy gave ground on all sides, and left us completely masters of the field of battle, with the loss of about 500 men on their side, and, as supposed, thrice that number wounded.

The darkness preventing a pursuit, the prisoners were few.

The behaviour of the officers and men in general was exemplary. Brigadier General Frazer took his position in the beginning of the day with great judgment, and sustained the action with constant presence of mind and vigour. Brigadier General Hamilton was the whole time engaged and acquitted himself with great honour, activity, and good conduct. The artillery in general was distinguished, and the brigade under Captain Jones, who was killed in the action, was conspicuously so.

The army lay upon their arms the night of the 19th, and the next day took a position nearly within cannon shot of the enemy, fortifying their right, and extending their left so as to cover the meadows through which the great river runs, and where the batteaux and hospitals were placed. The 47th regiment, and the regiment of Hesse Hanau, with a corps of provincials, encamped in the meadows as a further security.

It was soon found that no fruits, honour excepted, were attained by the preceding victory; the enemy working with redoubled ardour to strengthen their left; their right was unattackable already.

On our side it became expedient to erect strong redoubts for the protection of the magazines and hospital, not only against a sudden attack, but also for their security in case of a march to turn the enemy's flank.

21st. A messenger arrived from Sir Harry Clinton, with a letter in cyphers, informing me of his intention to attack Fort Montgomery in about ten days from the date of his letter, which was the 10th of September. This was the only messenger of many that I apprehend were dispatched by Sir William Howe, and him, that had reached my camp since the beginning of August. He was sent back the same night to inform Sir Harry of my situation, and of the necessity of a disposition to oblig

General Gates to detach part of his army, and my intention to wait favourable events in that position, if possible, to the 12th of October.

In the course of the two following days, two officers in disguise, and other confidential persons, were dispatched by different routes with verbal messages to the same effect; and I continued fortifying my camp, and watching the enemy, whose numbers encreased every day.

3d of October. I thought it adviseable to diminish the soldiers rations, in order to lengthen out the provisions, to which measure the army submitted with the utmost cheerfulness. The difficulties of a retreat to Canada were clearly foreseen, as was the dilemma, should the retreat be effected, of leaving at liberty such an army as General Gates's to act against Sir William Howe.

This consideration operated forcibly to determine me to abide events as long as possible, and I reasoned thus: The expedition I commanded was evidently meant to be hazarded; circumstances might require it should be devoted; a critical junction of Mr. Gates's [illegible] with Mr. Washington might possibly decide the fate of the war; the failure of my junction with Sir Harry Clinton, or the loss of my retreat to Canada, could only be a partial misfortune.

7th. In this situation things continued till the 7th, when no intelligence having been received of the expected co-operation, and four or five days for our limitted stay in the camp only remained, it was judged adviseable to make a movement to the enemy's left, not only to discover whether there were any possible means of forcing a passage should it be necessary to advance, or of dislodging him for the convenience of a retreat, but also to cover a forage of the army, which was in the greatest distress on account of the scarcity.

A detachment of 1500 regular troops, with 6 twelve pounders, 2 howitzers, and 6 six pounders, were ordered to move, and was commanded by myself, having with me Major General Phillips, Major General Reidesel, and Brigadier General Frazer. The guard of the camp upon the heights was left to Brigadiers General Hamilton and Speicht; the redoubts and the plain to Brigadier General Goll; and as the force of the enemy immediately in their front, consisted of more than double their numbers, it was not possible to augment the corps that marched beyond the numbers above stated.

I formed the troops within three quarters of a mile of the enemy's left; and Capt. Frazer's rangers with Indians and provincials, had orders to go by secret paths in the woods to gain the enemy's rear, and by shewing themselves there to keep them in check.

The further operations intended were prevented by a very sudden and [illegible]d attack of the enemy on our left; where the British grenadiers were posted to support the left wing of the line. Major Acland at the head of them sustained the attack with great resolution; but the enemy's great numbers enabling them in a few minutes to extend the attack along the front of the Germans, which were immediately on the right of the grenadiers, no part of that body could be removed to make a second line to the flank where the stress of the fire lay. The right was at that time unengaged; but it was soon observed that the enemy were marching a large corps round their flank to endeavour cutting off their retreat. The light infantry and part of the 24th regiment, which were at that post, were therefore ordered to form a second line, and to secure the return of the troops into camp.

While this movement was proceeding, the enemy pushed a fresh and strong reinforcement to renew the action upon the left, which overpowered by so great a superiority, gave way, and the light infantry and 24th regiment were obliged to make a quick movement to save that point from being entirely carried, in doing which, Brigadier General Frazer was mortally wounded.

The danger to which the lines were exposed becoming at this moment of the most serious nature, orders were given to Major General Phillips and Reidesel to cover the retreat, while such troops as were most ready for the purpose returned for the defence of the same. The troops retreated hard pressed, but in good order. They were obliged to leave six pieces of cannon, all the horses having been killed; and most of the artillery men, who had behaved as usual with the utmost bravery, under the command of Major Williams, being either killed or wounded.

The troops had scarcely entered the camp, when it was stormed with great fury, the enemy rushing to the lines under a severe fire of grape shot and small arms. The post of the light infantry under Lord Belcarres, assisted by some of the line, who threw themselves by order into those entrenchments, was defended with great spirit; and the enemy, led on by General Arnold, was finally repulsed, and the General wounded; but unhappily the entrenchments of the German reserve, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Brymen, who was killed, were carried, and although ordered to be recovered, they never were so; and the enemy by that misfortune gained an opening to our right and rear. The night put an end to the action.

Under the disadvantages thus apparent in our situation, the army was ordered to quit the present position during the night, and take post upon the height above the hospital; thus, by an entire change of front, to reduce the enemy to form a new disposition. This movement was effected with great order and without loss, though all the artillery and carriages removed at the same time. The army continued offering battle to the enemy in their new position the whole day of the 8th.

8th. Intelligence was now received that the enemy were marching to turn the right, and no means could prevent this measure but retiring towards Saratoga. The army began to move at nine o'clock at night; Major General Reidesel commanding the van guard, and Major General Phillips the rear.

This retreat though within musket shot of the enemy, and encumbered with all the baggage of the army, was made without loss; but a very heavy rain, and the difficulties of guarding the batteaux, which contained all the provisions, occasioned delays, which prevented the army reaching Saratoga till the night of the 9th, and the artillery could not pass the fords of the Fishkill till the morning of the 10th.

At our arrival near Saratoga, a corps of the enemy, of between five and six hundred, were discovered throwing up entrenchments on the heights, but retired over a ford of the Hudson's river at our approach, and joined a body posted to oppose our passage there.

It was judged proper to send a detachment of artificers, under a strong escort to repair the bridges and open a road to Fort Edward. The 47th regiment, Captain Frazer's marksmen and Mackoy's provincials, were ordered for that service; but the enemy appearing on the heights of the Fishkill in great force, and making a disposition to pass and give us battle, the 47th regiment and Frazer's marksmen were recalled: The provincials left to cover the workmen at the first bridge, ran away upon a very slight attack of a small party of the enemy, and left the artificers to escape as they could, without a possibility of their performing any work.

During these different movements the batteaux with provisions were frequently fired upon from the opposite side of the river; some of them were lost, and several men were killed and wounded in those which remained.

11th. Attacks upon the batteaux were continued; several were taken and re-taken; but their situation being much nearer to the main force of the enemy than to ours, it was found impossible to secure the provisions any otherwise than by landing them and carrying them upon the hill. This was effected under fire, and with great difficulty.

The possible means of farther retreat were now considered in councils of war composed of the General Officers, minutes of which will be transmitted to your Lordship.

The only one that seemed at all practicable was by a night march to gain Fort Edward, with the troops carrying their provisions on their backs, the impossibility of repairing bridges putting a conveyance of artillery and carriages out of the question; and it was proposed to force the ford at Fort Edward, or the ford above it.

Before this attempt could be made, scouts returned with intelligence that the enemy were intrenched opposite those fords, and possessed a camp in force on the high ground between Fort Edward and Fort George, with cannon; they had also parties down the whole shore to watch our motions, and posts so near to us upon our own side of the water as must prevent the army moving a single mile undiscovered.

(The remainder of G. BURGOYNE's *letter in our next.)*

BOSTON, *April* 9.

SUNDAY last General Burgoyne set off from Cambridge for Rhode Island, in order to embark for Great Britain, on parole, agreeable to the resolution of Congress.

NEW LONDON, *April* 10.

WE have accounts from Newport that last Sabbath 32 sail of shipping sailed from that place for New York, part of which went through the Sound on Monday and Tuesday, the remainder went without Long Island. At the same time a number of ships went down the Sound. We have also accounts from Newport which make it probable that the enemy are dismantling their fortifications, and embarking their heavy cannon, horses, &c. and it is apprehended that they are about quitting Rhode Island.

(For more news, and new advertisements, see the last page.)

THE Preſident and Profeſſors of *William* and *Mary* college, do hereby earneſtly requeſt all perſons who ſend their ſons to the ſaid college, to be more attentive to their punctual return upon the expiration of the allowed vacations; as the ſcrambling to the times for their return, occaſions great confuſion in the different claſſes, as well as much interruption in their reſpective ſtudies. In the grammer ſchool, a month is allowed at *Chriſtmas*, a week at *Eaſter*, and a month at *Midſummer*.

MY duties in the army prevent my giving further attendance on the ſuits in which I ſtand engaged. My clients are hereby advertiſed, that the Gentlemen practiſing in my courts, are kind enough to tender their ſervices for proſpecting thoſe in which they, reſpectively, ſtand not oppoſed to me, or, to ſuch as chooſe to employ a new attorney. The fees are relinquiſhed. I have lately taken a circuit of my courts, and have the pleaſure to find, among thoſe whom I have been fortunate enough to ſee, that many accommodations have taken place during the long receſs from buſineſs, and perhaps ſome have happened, of which the parties thought it not neceſſary to adviſe me. However, ſuch who have made any alterations whatever in the matter of their reſpective ſuits, will oblige me by giving the earlieſt information thereof to the reſpective clerks, that improper ſteps may not be taken. The papers which were in my hands, not in ſuits, or otherwiſe particularly diſpoſed of, are lodged with *George Carrington*, jun. Eſq; who will deliver them to the proprietors. Thoſe who formerly employed me, have my grateful thanks, and may be aſſured of my endeavours to ſerve them again when in my power. *George Carrington*, ſenior, *John Carrington*, and *George Carrington*, jun. Eſqrs are my attorneys, and empowered to tranſact any buſineſs concerning me, to whom my creditors and debtors will oblige me by making the earlieſt application. The repreſentative of *James Wiſdom*, who died in the ſervice, and was formerly an apprentice to Mr. *Daniel Ridley* of *Cumberland*, are hereby informed, that he left in my hands 3l. 17s. 6d. which is lodged with my attorneys.

EDWARD CARRINGTON.

YORK county, *April* 27, 1778.

STRAYED or ſtolen from my houſe, on *Thurſday* laſt, a large black horſe, 9 years old, full 15 hands high, has a hanging mane and ſwitch tail, a ſmall ſtar in his forehead, and branded on the near ſhoulder and buttock, but the brand forget. I bought him of one *Knight*, from *South Carolina*; he paces and canters well, and has good ſpirit; he has been ſhod before, but his right ſhoe has been lately taken off, the nail holes plain to be ſeen. The hair of his legs and footlocks are very long. Whoever will take up the ſaid horſe, and deliver him to me, or to Capt. *James Southall* in *Williamsburg*, ſhall have eight dollars, if ſtolen, on conviction of the thief, five pounds.

ARTHUR DICKENSON.

FOR SALE for ready money, a traſt of exceeding good tobacco LAND, lying in the county of *Goochland*, on *Byrd* creek, containing 666 acres. For terms apply to the ſubſcriber in *Dinwiddie* county.

WILLIAM COLE.

JUST imported from the *Weſt Indies*, and to be ſold at Mr. *John Holloway*'s ſtore at *Peterſburg*, the following goods, viz. Rum, ſugar, coppers, worſted ſtockings, white and brown thread ditto, calicoes, chintz, printed linen handkerchiefs, buckram, worſted breeches patterns, cambrick, lawn, variety of linen, ſowing ſilk, ribands, knives and forks, cheſt locks, whip handles and ſtrait cut ſaw files, candleſticks and ſnuffers, broadcloths and ſtrouds, bottle corks, &c.

THE well known high bred ſtallion REGULUS ſtands at my ſtable in *New Kent* county, near [illegible] 61. the ſea- taken away. r eſcapes or inch high, ty and ſize. ught out of eaſt ſweep- his ſire was bin's *White*- horſe in the ERSON.

THE well known high bred imported horſe OSCAR, a beautiful ſorrel, full 15 hands 3 inches high, ſtands at my plantation in *Dinwiddie* county, where he will cover mares at 10 dollars the leap, or 25 the ſeaſon; the firſt to be paid down, the laſt when the mares are taken away. I have a ſufficient quantity of excellent paſturage well incloſed. The mares ſhall be properly attended to, but cannot be liable for accidents.

ROBERT TURNBULL.

CAMDEN, a beautiful cheſtnut, will ſtand at my houſe in *Hanover* county, and cover mares at 5 dollars cash the leap, or 17 dollars the ſeaſon; the money for the ſeaſon may be diſcharged by the payment of 15 dollars on or before the firſt day of *September*, when the ſeaſon will expire. *Camden* was got by *Old Fearnought*, upon the noted running mare *Poll Flaxen*; ſhe was bred by Mr. *Ralph Wormley* of *Middleſex*. Paſturage *gratis*, but will not be anſwerable for eſcapes. (4f) THORNTON & MORRIS.

THE beautiful high bred horſe GODOLPHIN, got by *Old Fearnought* out of the well known mare *Jenny Diſmal*, imported by the late Col. *Baylor*. He is a fine bay, full fifteen and remarkable for his fine ſhape and activity. He was got in the year 1773, being then 4 years old, he beat Col. *Lloyd*'s colt at *Leeds* town, a match for 400 guineas, and has lately received forfeit from Sir *Peyton Skipwith*'s horſe *Figure*. His colts are well ſhaped and promiſing, either for the turf or ſaddle, being very active. He ſtands at Mr. *Henry Simmons*'s near the *Smoky Ordinary* in *Brunſwick*, and will cover mares at 10 dollars the ſingle leap, or 20 the ſeaſon; the money to be ſent with the mares. Good paſturage *gratis*, but I will not be anſwerable for eſcapes or accidents.

THOMAS FIELD.

4f

AMELIA County, *February* 27, 1778.

PILGRIM, a beautiful black, with a ſmall ſtar in his forehead, 4 years old, upwards of 15½ hands high, ſhort, ſtrong and well proportioned, ſtands at my ſtable, and will [illegible] mares at 2 dollars the leap, and 6l. the ſeaſon. *Pilgrim* was got by *Old Fearnought*, his dam by *Antiſtus*, his grandam by *Whittington*, his great grandam by *Jolly Roger*, his great—great grandam by the imported horſe *Bow*, the property of ſecretary *Carter*, his great—great—great grandam was the noted running mare *Jenny Morris*, the property of Col. *John Bowling*, and got by the above *Bow*, his great—great—great—great grandam was a very high bred imported mare, the property of the late Col. *Eppes*. Large and extenſive paſtures *gratis*, and all poſſible care will be taken of mares, but will not be anſwerable for accidents.

(4f) HENRY ANDERSON.

*** The above horſe is for ſale after the ſeaſon, price 500l. caſh.

THE high bred horſe SELIM, formerly the property of *Samuel Galloway*, Eſq; of *Maryland*, ſtands at my ſtable in *Suſſex* county, to be let to mares the enſuing ſeaſon at 10 dollars the cover, and 20 the ſeaſon; the money to be paid before the mares are taken away. *Selim* is a fine dark bay, upwards of 15 hands high, fat, ſound and healthy; was got by *Black and all Black*, whoſe ſire was old *Crab*, his dam was the beautiful *Selima*, got by the *Godolphin Arabian*, and full ſiſter to old *Babram*. His performances as a racer, I believe, have not been equalled by any horſe that ever ſtarted on the continent. Good paſturage *gratis*, and proper care ſhall be taken of the mares; but I will not be anſwerable for accidents. (6) RICHARD PARKER.

SILVER TAIL, a beautiful bay, riſing 5 years old, well marked, and in high perfection, ſtands at the ſubſcriber's in *Suſſex* county, near *Belling*'s bridge, and will cover mares for 5 dollars the leap, and 15 dollars the ſeaſon, the leap money to be paid down. Good paſturage *gratis*, but no indemnification againſt eſcapes. (7f) THOMAS HILL.

Silver Tail was got by old *Fearnought*, his dam by the ſame horſe, and his grandam by *Sobit Jobs*, out of a *Jolly* mare.

JOHN ARMISTEAD,
G. MADISON, who was
Clerk to Col. *John Baylor*, deceaſed.

THE ſubſcribers purchaſed from *George Stevenſon* of the State of *Pinſylvania*, two tracts of land in the county of *Fairfax* in *Virginia*, for the ſum of 800l. *Penſylvania* money, one third of which was paid at the time of the purchaſe, and for ſecuring the payment of the other two thirds, at different periods, we gave our joint bonds and a mortgage on the ſaid lands, and being ready to pay the whole money in *January* laſt, we calculated the intereſt to the 30th of that month, and carried both principal and intereſt, amounting to 558l. and offered it to the ſaid *Stevenſon*, who declined receiving it, alledging that he had lodged the bonds with *John Gibſon*, Eſq; of the ſtate aforeſaid, as a ſecurity for money due from *Stevenſon* to ſome perſon in *Great Britain*, for whom the ſaid *Gibſon* was agent. Upon this information we applied to Mr. *Gibſon*, and tendered him the money on the 4th day of *February* laſt. He acknowledged he had poſſeſſion of the bonds for the above purpoſe, but refuſed to receive the money. We therefore give notice to the ſaid *Gibſon*, or any other perſons concerned, that he or they, may at any time receive the ſaid ſum of 558l. but we will not pay any intereſt ſubſequent to the ſaid 4th day of *February* laſt.

GEO. GILPIN & Wm. HARTSHORNE.

ALEXANDRIA (*Virginia*) *March* 28, 1778.

CAME to the ſubſcriber's ſtock of cattle, in the lower end of *York* county, about 2 years ago, an unmarked heifer, ſince which, ſhe has had a calf. They have been poſted and appraiſed to 30l. JOHN KERBY.

TAKEN up, in *Norfolk* county, on *Paradiſe* creek, a bay horſe about 13¾ hands high, branded on the near buttock W, his right hind foot white to the hoof, paces and gallops. Poſted, and appraiſed to 15l.

WILLIAM OWENS.

TAKEN up, on *Little* river, in *Hanover* county, a red cow about 4 years old, marked with a crop and ſlit in the left ear, and an unkerkeel in the right. Appraiſed to 6l. (7f) DAVID COSBY.

TAKEN up, in *James City*, near *Fox*'s ordinary, a black horſe about 13¾ hands high, with a hanging mane and ſwitch tail, ſeveral ſaddle ſpots, and believe from his teeth very old; Branded on the off buttock O, though the brand rather blind. Poſted, and appraiſed to 8l.

(8) EDMUND TAYLOR.

WILLIAMSBURG, *May*

A CORRESPONDENT observes, that as Britain used to take off naval stores, sterling annually to Spain, Russia, Norway, and Sweden, for the single article of iron, before she encouraged the importation of it from America; it is not probable that any of those kingdoms will assist her to recover the American trade, and much less will Russia do it, whose interest it is to make Britain and together dependent on her for her naval stores. She must, indeed, keep up Britain's hopes of conquering America, but she knows too well that her own fairest prospects of being shortly a great maritime power will vanish the moment America submits to be the provinces of Britain; for as long as the naval power of Britain remains so vastly superior to that of any other, or indeed of almost all the kingdoms in Europe, Russia cannot hope to find a single ship out of the Baltic without the permission of Britain; and therefore she will do well to keep in with her, and make a good use of her time in exerting every means in her power to encrease her navy, and to be expert in the use of it. But then she must be very cautious how she assists Britain in the present war; for should she enable her to conquer America, Britain will have no further occasion for the immense supplies of naval stores, &c. she furnishes, or for her assistance by sea or land, and will be able to tell her, *that for that shou go, and no further.* Besides, although it is honourable enough to the petty States of Germany to be willing on to assist such a powerful kingdom as Britain, yet it is stooping beneath the dignity of a mighty empire, like Russia, to assist Britain in any such war as the present; she will assist her, no doubt, against any power in Europe. But should Russia so far mistake her interest, and lose sight of her dignity, as to be willing to lend her troops to Britain to conquer America, we should consider that a war with the Turks would prevent her sparing them, and that it is not the interest of any power in Europe to see Britain again mistress of America; and therefore a war between Russia and Turkey, and probably between France, Spain, and England, would be the immediate consequence of an attempt to send over a body of Russians. As long, indeed, as England only fights with America, and lands her armies by way of Quebec and Ticonderoga, to attack Philadelphia, France may refrain from war, knowing that America will do her business for her. But when any great effort is made, she must act openly, or perhaps be ruined by the conquest of America.

Extract of a letter from York, *in* Pennsylvania, *dated* April 26.

"Since writing the above, Congress is informed by the General, that, from good intelligence from the city, he learns that the Commissioners, consisting of Lord Auckland, Admiral Kepple, and Mr. Murray, formerly Governor of Quebec, are appointed, and are to hold a plenitude of civil and military powers for negotiating or war, and their arrival may be shortly expected, as the long delay of the former Commissioners was reprobated by the nation. It is probable, if no negociation or pacification, under the propositions, should take place, these new leaders of the British bands will act with great energy and vigour in the field. Should we not determine immediately to augment our army? General Lee is effectually exchanged for General Prescot, together with a long list of other officers, amongst whom is Col. Ethan Allen."

John Bates, who lately made his escape from the public jail, and who is under sentence to be hung for desertion, was brought to this city last Tuesday.

Died, at Tuscany, Thomas B. Chittenden, Esq; at Shelburne, a most irreparable loss to his affectionate brethren, their second father, their faithful friend, and meritorious instructor of their educations. The public will pardon them for adding this small but grateful tribute to the warm patriot, a practical philosopher, and master of excellent sciences.

Mrs. Mitchell Hay of this city,

Mrs. Charles Hansford of York county.

On Tuesday morning, the 28th of April, Mr. Thomas Langston died at Hyperion. He was a truly benevolent man, sincere in his friendship, a kind husband, a tender father, and a useful member of society. His numerous acquaintances can bear testimony, that through life he sustained this short and amiable character.

TO be sold on *Thursday* the 28th instant (*May*) at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, before the Raleigh door in *Williamsburg*, agreeable to the last will and testament of the late Hon. *William Byrd*, Esq; for ready money, the dwelling-houses of the said decedent, in *Williamsburg*, together with the lots adjoining. The premises are so well known, and have been already advertised particularly, that a further discription is unnecessary. THE EXECUTRIX.

PETERSBURG, *April* 23, 1778.

TO be let at *Dinwiddie* courthouse, to the lowest bidder, on the 18th day of *May* next, being court day, the building of a prison, the plan will be shewn that day by

ROBERT WALKER,
EDWARD WYATT,
WILLIAM WATKINS,
JOSEPH JONES.

WILLIAMSBURG, *May* 5, 1778.

TO BE SOLD, for ready money, before the *Raleigh* door, on the 23d instant, unless be entered on the 18 of July next, the store houses and lot in this city, late the property of *John Brush*, & company.

MANCHESTER, *April* 27, 1778.

ANY demands against the estate of *Christopher Roberts*, deceased, are desired to be made known without delay, that they may be adjusted and paid, and those indebted to said estate, are requested to settle their accounts as soon as possible. (2d) WILLIAM ROBERTS, Executor.

TWO [illegible]

TWO [illegible] *Hanf, Kingsfor* [illegible] upon the Rocks, [illegible] to you true.—All [illegible] *Walker*, [illegible] the 2d [illegible]

WHITE [illegible] for the above date next, [illegible] house of [illegible] county from [illegible] plantations. Also [illegible] rivers, in the county of [illegible] and [illegible] part [illegible] of *Dinwiddie* and [illegible] containing about [illegible]

* * *Feb.* 10, 1778. Since writing the above [illegible] upon the first mentioned lands, [illegible] lying well and two [illegible]

FOR [illegible] in this city of [illegible] HOUSE and LOT, with convenient [illegible] the present [illegible]

THE [illegible] further is in want of a WEAVER [illegible] capable of managing a [illegible] such a one who [illegible] reasonable wages given. [illegible]

A MEETING of all the [illegible] of the [illegible] and *Maryland*, [illegible] the 20th [illegible] Mrs. *Jones*, [illegible] usual.

FOR SALE that [illegible] containing 156 acres, [illegible] dwelling-house with 4 rooms below [illegible] stable, tobacco-house, and 4 [illegible] This is perhaps one of the most valuable [illegible] abounds in pit coal, and is within 7 miles of water [illegible] accustomed boats can convey it down. Formerly [illegible] a very high hill from whence the river [illegible] It also contains an inexhaustible quantity of [illegible] any ever imported, nature [illegible] thing to do but to [illegible] on the coal will be [illegible] wisheth to say any [illegible] to carry it on to [illegible] my debts would induce [illegible] purchase may know the terms by applying to Mr. [illegible] owned, or the subscriber on the premises.

5‖ GEORGE [illegible]

I HAVE it in express [illegible] TON to order all officers belonging to the [illegible] whose furloughs have expired, or who were [illegible] to join their respective corps with as much [illegible] weighty reasons influence the Commander in Chief to [illegible] pliance with this order, the most striking one is, that the enemy are [illegible] their force to one point. This order is not meant to extend to [illegible] of the light dragoons, who are necessarily employed in purchasing [illegible] for their troops, or to any officer of rank who may have received [illegible] the Governor's particular instructions to take charge of [illegible] to conduct them to camp. Such are desired to make the greatest [illegible] their power, taking care not to drop [illegible] and other places upon the [illegible] infection of the [illegible] arrived at head quarters, [illegible] WILLIAM WOODFORD, Brigadier General.

THE agents, factors, or representatives of *Cumberland Wilson*, late of the town of *Dumfries*, in the state of *Virginia*, merchant, are desired to take notice that *John Reynell*, *Jacob Harman*, and *Morgan Lewis*, of the State of *Pennsylvania*, purchased from *Robert Rutherford* of *Berkeley* county, in *Virginia*, sundry tracts of land, situate in the said county of *Berkeley*, which were mortgaged to said *Cumberland Wilson*, to secure the payment of 2101. 14s. 2½d. sterling, and 1911. 17s. 7d. currency with interest from the first day of *October* 1770, which sums with exchange on the sterling, and interest calculated to the 2d day of *April* next, amounts to 6501. 2s. 6½d current money, which is lodged in my hands by the said *Reynell*, *Harman*, and *Lewis*, and will be paid to the said *Cumberland Wilson* or his agent at any time upon application to

(tf) WILLIAM HARTSHORNE.

ALEXANDRIA (*Virginia*) *March* 28, 1778.

THE honourable Governor and Council have appointed me to collect and send cattle forward to the army, and as it will be impossible to collect them from the houses of every individual, I propose that attendance shall be given at the following places on the following days: At *Petersburg*, *Amherst* courthouse, and *Looney's* ferry, in *Botetourt* county, the 1st of *June*; at *Richmond*, *Manchester*, *Newcastle*, and *Paxton's* ordinary, the 3d; at *Albemarle* courthouse the 4th; at *Staunton* the 5th; at *Orange* courthouse the 6th; at *Fredericksburg* the 7th; at *Fauquier* courthouse the 10th; and at *Winchester* the 13th, in order to receive and pay for any number of cattle that may be delivered at the above times and places. These cattle will be in three droves, to wit, from *Petersburg* by way of *Richmond*, *Hanover* courthouse, *Caroline* courthouse, and *Fredericksburg*; from *Amherst* courthouse by *Albemarle*, *Orange*, *Culpeper*, *Fauquier*, and *Loudon* courthouse. Both of these droves will cross at *Rowland's* ferry, on *Potowmack*. The drove from *Looney's* ferry will go by *Paxton's*, *Staunton*, and *Winchester*. There will be persons with each drove qualified to purchase; so that any person who can more conveniently deliver cattle at any other places on the several roads will have an opportunity of doing it. After what has been said by their Excellencies General *Washington* and the Governor, it would be very absurd in me to attempt saying any thing to stimulate my countrymen to exert themselves on this important occasion. They may depend the highest prices that are current at the several places shall be given, and if the prices that will be offered are thought insufficient, they shall be submitted to able respectable persons at the different places. I propose making up a drove of fat corned cattle, to be received at *Newcastle* the 1st day of *May*, for which a very high price will be given to those that will please to bring them there. I will give 2 l. per pound for any quantity of good bacon delivered at *Richmond* to Mr. *Zenas Tait*, or Mr. *James Turner* at *Newcastle*, or Mr. Commissary *Eaton* at *Williamsburg*.

JOHN HAWKINS.

CAROLINE county, *March* 23, 1778.

ALL persons who have any demands against the trustees of Mr. *Benjamin Grymes*, deceased, are requested to apply for payment to the subscriber, who is now empowerd to discharge them.

ANTHONY THORNTON, Jun.

JUST imported in the *Virginia* packet, Capt. *Goffigan* from *Cape Francois*, and will be sold at *Richmond*, on *Wednesday* the 3d of *June*, for ready money or tobacco, the following goods, *viz.* Superfine broadcloth in patterns for suits, bath coating, trimmings, silk hose, nutmegs, pen knives, table knives and forks, pad locks, raisins in boxes, cheese, writing paper, *India* and queen's china, sail canvas, osnaburgs, loaf sugar, limes, shirting linen, and salt in barrels and bags.

JOSHUA STORRS, for *Fielding Lewis*, & co.

MARK ANTONY stands at my house, and will cover mares at 6l. *Virginia* currency the season, or 5l. if paid before the season expires, 50s. the leap, the money, and 10s. entrance. Mares fed at a moderate rate. Good pasturage *gratis*, but I will not be answerable for thefts or escapes.

THOMAS EATON.

WHIRLIGIG stands at my house near *Halifax* town, *North Carolina*, and will cover mares at 3l. proc the leap, 6l. the season, and 9l. to ensure. Mares will be fed at 20s. proc *per* week.—I will not be answerable for accidents, or for mares that may stray or be stolen.

WILLIE JONES.

SPECIMEN, a beautiful bay horse of the finest form and figure, and but 5 years old, stands the ensuing spring at *Broadneck*, in *Hanover* county, and will be let to mares for seven dollars the single cover, and six pounds the season, ready money. Exclusive of very extensive and very fine natural pasture grounds, well surrounded with fences, seventy acres of land, for the benefit of mares sent with young foals, are laid down in wheat, and under a separate enclosure; Gentlemen may rest assured that the greatest justice in every respect shall be observed towards their mares, and though I will not be answerable for accidents, yet every possible precaution shall be used to prevent them.

4s ROBERT PAGE.

Specimen's sire was *Old Fearnought*; and his dam the famous *Jenny Dismal*, both the property of the late Col. *Baylor*, of *Caroline*; their blood is sufficiently known, and held in the highest estimation. *Specimen* is full brother to *Godolphin Arabian*.

GEORGE BAYLOR.

NEW MARKET, *March* 15, 1778.

SHAKESPEARE stands about 3 miles from *New Market*, and will cover mares at 5l. each the season. He is a black 15¼ hands high, got by *Fearnaught*; his dam *Stella*, got by *Shakespeare* in *England*, on the imported mare *Cassandra*. Pasturage for the mares *gratis*, but I will not be answerable for escapes.

GALLANT will stand the present season, about a mile from *Orange* courthouse, to cover mares at 5l. each, the money to be paid on receiving the mares. He is a beautiful bay 16 hands high, got by *Fearnought* out of *Stately*, a well bred mare. Pasturage will be found the mares, but will not be answerable for escapes. (6) ROBERT TAYLOR.

WILLIAMSBURG, *April* 13, 1778.

IT is once more and for the last time, earnestly requested of all who have any demands against the estate of *W Pearson*, deceased, to bring them in and they shall be paid, and all indebted to the said estate, must pay of their respective accounts by the 20th day of *June*, otherwise they will be put into the hands of an attorney without farther notice from M. PEARSON.

For sale at NEILL'S *commission store, in* Williamsburg.

AN assortment of silks, *Irish* linens, muslins, suits of lace, *India* chintz, pocket handkerchiefs, checks, osnabrugs and Negro cloth, camlets, gold and silver appellets, silver buttons, worsted and silk stockings, black feathers, paste shoe, knee, and hat buckles, best paste necklaces and earrings, silver spoons and tea tongs, hair springs, silver blond lace, Ladies saddle and saddle cloth, watch keys and chains, *Jamaica* spirits, *Barbados* rum, *Holland* geneva, (*Batavia* arrack, brandies, cordials, old *Madeira* and claret in casks and bottles, loaf and brown sugar, rice, black pepper, pimenta, china and glass ware, starch, needles, pins and threads, household furniture, wearing apparel, Ladies riding dress and hat, watch maker's materials, decanter lables, *India* stripes for gowns, nankeens, green tea in pound and half pound canisters, *India* handkerchiefs, *French* lawns, coffee, sewing silks, checks, writing paper, &c. &c. &c.

Just imported from Bourdeaux, *and to be sold by* Nicholas B. Seabrook, *in* Richmond *town, the following articles, viz.*

JESUITS bark, rheubarb, glauber salts, jalap, sena, nutmegs, ipecacuanha, *Spanish* flies, vitriolated tartar, salop, valerian, opeum, gum arabic, verdigreate, magnesia alba, salts of wormwood, balsam capivi, myrrh, manna, castile soap, and camphor——*Russia* sail duck, sewing twine and palms, large and small sail needles, black pepper, allum, bohea and green tea, sewing silk, barcelona and check handkerchiefs, printed gauze and nuns thread, post, printing, invoice, and coppy paper, ivory and horn combs, penknives, large cutteau ditto, scissors, sewing needles, pins of different sizes, lancets in cases, watch christals, silk gauze, ribbands, skeleton wire, mens and ladies kidd gloves, *French* coniack brandy, bottle corks, pin cuthions, snuff boxes, red sealing wax, white shoe wax, frame saws, spye-glasses, ¼ and ½ minute glasses, pump nails, &c. &c. &c. (6‖)

FOR sale, two tracts of LAND lying in the county of *Loudoun*, one containing 600 acres, in good order for croping, the soil equal to any in the county. the land extremely level, on which is a great quantity of excellent meadow, The other tract contains 1000 acres, on which are several tenants, the soil excellent for wheat, the land level, well timbered, and adjoining a very valuable mill; both the aforesaid tracts are about 25 miles from *Alexandria* and *George Town*. Any one inclining to purchase may known the terms by applying to *Gerard Alexander* in the county of *Fairfax*, near *George Town*. (‖)

DINWIDDIE, *January* 1778.

A YOUNG man, qualified to transact the business of a county court clerk, will meet with very good encouragement by applying to

tf JOHN NICHOLAS.

FOR SALE, between 7 and 8000 acres of exceeding fine tobacco and grain land, lying in the lower end of *Bedford* county; also 1500 acres in *Mecklenburg* county, on the branches of *Finiswood* and *Blue Stone* creeks, whereon is a plantation cleared sufficient to work ten or twelve hands to advantage. It is needless to say any thing in commendation of the above lands, as I imagine the purchaser would chuse to see them. The terms may be made easy and known by applying to me in *Prince George*. (tf) WILLIAM MURRAY.

PORT ROYAL, *December* 22, 1777.

JUST opened, THE PORT ROYAL NEW TAVERN. Such Gentlemen as will favour the subscriber with their custom may depend on his best endeavour to please, by a constant attendance, and obliging behaviour, and the greatest care taken of their baggage, servants, and horses. His house is conveniently situated on the main road or street leading in a strait line to and from the country; and as the traveller comes up from the ferry landing to the first cross street, *The New Tavern*, a little onwards to the right hand, readily meets the eye, a low brick house forms a kind of a wing to another, which has a *Dutch* roof with five windows in front.

If he meets with such encouragement as to enable him to carry on this business (which he must confess is entirely new to him) he will enclose a few lots against the spring for pasturage. 13‖ ANDREW LECKIE.

IMPORTANT INTELLIGENCE, JUST RECEIVED BY EXPRESS.

BALTIMORE, MAY 4.

YORK Town, *May* 3, 1778.

SIR,

YOU will be ſoon fully informed of the treaties of alliance and commerce between the Court of VERSAILLES and the UNITED STATES of AMERICA. Copy of a letter, which I here encloſe, will, in the meantime, give the great outlines. I have the honour to be, with great reſpect, Sir, your obedient ſervant,

HENRY LAURENS,
Preſident of Congreſs.

William Lux, Eſq;
Baltimore

Copy of a letter from the Hon. Meſſ. Franklin, Deane, *and* Lee, *to his Excellency the Preſident of Congreſs.*

PASSY, *near Paris, Feb.* 8, 1778.

Honourable Sir,

WE have now the great ſatisfaction of acquainting you, and the Congreſs, that the treaties with France are at length completed and ſigned. The firſt is a treaty of *Amity* and *Commerce*, much on the plan of that projected in Congreſs; the other is a treaty of *Alliance*, in which it is ſtipulated, that in caſe England declares war againſt France, or occaſions a war by attempts to hinder her commerce with us, we ſhould then make a common cauſe of it, and join our forces and councils, &c. &c. The great aim of this treaty is declared to be to "eſtabliſh the liberty, ſovereignty, and independency abſolute and unlimited of the United States, as well in matters of government and as commerce." And this is guarantied to us by France, together with all the countries we poſſeſs, or ſhall poſſeſs at the concluſion of the war; in return for which, the ſtates guaranty to France all its poſſeſſions in America. We do not now add more particulars, as you will ſoon have the whole by a ſafer conveyance, a frigate being appointed to carry our deſpatches. We only obſerve to you, and with pleaſure, that we have found throughout this buſineſs the greateſt cordiality in this court; and that no advantage has been taken or attempted to be taken of our preſent difficulties, to obtain hard terms from us; but ſuch has been the King's magnanimity and goodneſs, that he has propoſed none which we might not readily have agreed to in a ſtate of full proſperity and eſtabliſhed power. The principle laid down as the baſis of the treaty being as declared in the preamble, "the moſt perfect equality and reciprocity," the privileges in trade, &c. are mutual, and none are given to France but what we are at liberty to grant to any other nation. On the whole, we have abundant reaſon to be ſatisfied with the good will of this court and the nation in general, which we therefore hope will be cultivated by the Congreſs, by every means that may eſtabliſh the UNION and render it permanent.

When we mention the good will of this nation to our cauſe, we may add, that of all Europe; which having been offended by the pride and inſolence of Britain, wiſhes to ſee its power diminiſhed. And

all who have received injuries from her, are by one of the articles, to be invited into our alliance. The preparations for war are carried on with immence activity; and it is very ſoon expected.

With our hearty congratulations and our duty to Congreſs, we have the honour to be, very reſpectfully,

Sir, yours, &c.

Copy of a letter from the Hon. the VIRGINIA DELEGATES *at Congreſs to his his Excellency the Governour.*

YORK Town, *May* 3, 1778.

SIR,

HAVING heard that a meſſenger from France was on his way to Congreſs with important diſpatches, we detained the expreſs, who otherwiſe would have ſet out yeſterday, that we might furniſh your Excellency with the intelligence he brought. It is with ſingular pleaſure we inform you, Sir, that this meſſenger has brought to Congreſs authenticated copies of a treaty of commerce, and a treaty of amity and alliance, ſigned at Paris on the 6th of February laſt, between France and theſe United States, and we underſtand there is abundant reaſon to ſuppoſe that the whole Bourbon family will immediately accede thereto. The treaty of commerce is exactly conformable to our own propoſals, and it is upon the moſt generous and equal principles; the treaty of alliance, &c. is profeſſedly for ſecurity of the ſovereignty and abſolute independence of theſe ſtates, both in government and trade, and it agrees, that if Great Britain declares war againſt France on this account, or cauſes a war, or attempts to hinder her commerce, that we ſhall make common cauſe, and join our arms and counſels againſt the common enemy. Each country guarantees to the other the poſſeſſions that they do or may poſſeſs at the end of the war. Having heard theſe treaties read but once in Congreſs, we cannot be more particular now. In general we find that his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty has been governed by principles of magnanimity and true generoſity, taking no advantages of our circumſtances, but acting as if we were in the plenitude of power, and in the greateſt ſecurity. We are ſhortly to receive conſiderable ſtores from France, that come under convoy of a fleet of men of war. The King of Pruſſia has actually refuſed to permit the Heſſians and Hanover troops, that England had engaged for America, to paſs through his territories. We congratulate you, Sir, and our country on this great and important event; but we beg leave farther to obſerve, that it is in our opinion of infinite conſequence that the army ſhould be quickly and powerfully reinforced. Becauſe, if Britain ſhould meanly permit the trade of France to proceed without interruption, and puſh her whole force againſt us this campaign, it might be attended with very pernicious conſequences; but with a ſtrong army, we ſhall, under God, be perfectly ſecure, and it will probably compel Great Britain to a ſpeedy recognition of our independence, and thus ſecure the peace of Europe, with the peace, happineſs, and glory of America.

We have the honour to be, with much eſteem, Sir, your Excelleny's moſt obedient and very humble ſervants.